Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: ENRG, CA, IEA

SUBJECT: IEA: LONG-TERM COOPERATIVE PROGRAM: CANADA

REF: BRUSSELS 616

AS PROMISED REFTEL PARA 4, FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF CANADIAN LETTER OF JANUARY 13 (TOWE TO DAVIGNON) ON LONG-TERM PROGRAM:

BEGIN QUOTE: JANUARY 13, 1976. DEAR STEVE, I WISH TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH YOU HAVE TAKEN IN SEEKING APPROPRIATE WORDING FOR A CANADIAN STATE ON "LONG-TERM PROGRAMME". MINISTERS HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED YOUR SUGGESTIONS ANDHAVE APPROVED A TEXT SUBSTANTIALLY ALONG THE LINES YOU PROPOSED THOUGH WITH CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS WHICH IN THEIR VIEW SHOULD NOT DETRACT FROM THE ADEQUACY OF THE STATEMENT. IN AN EFFORT TO ENSURE THE FULLEST UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTABILITY, AS YOU WILL KNOW, WE ARE APPROACHING OTHER IEA CAPITALS EXPLAINING OUR POSITION. THE MINISTERS USED WITHOUT MODIFICATION THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THE TEXT YOU PROPOSED.

IN PARAGRAPHS TWO AND THREE, AS YOU WILL NOTE, AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO AVOID AN IMPLICATION THAT CHANGES IN CANADIAN ENERGY LEGISLATION ARE CONTMEPLATED AND TO CLARIFY CONFIDENTIAL

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THE CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION. ALSO ADDED IN PARAGRAPH TWO IS

A REFERENCE TO THE LEVEL OF EXISTING IEA INVESTMENT IN THE CANADIA ENERGY INDUSTRY AND OF EXPORTS OF CANADIAN INDIGENOUS ENERGY RESOURCES WITHIN THE IEA, ELEMENTS WHICH IN OUR VIEW STRENGTHEN THE UNIOUENESS OF CANADA'S POSITION.

THE TEXT WHICH THE MINISTERS HAVE APPROVED IS AS FOLLOWS:

IN ADPOTING CHAPTERS I TO IV OF THE LONG-TERM PROGRAMME OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY, THE CANADIAN DELEGATION WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THE HIGH IMPORTANCE IT ATTACHES TO COOPERATION ON ENERGY WITHIN THE IEA. IN PARTICULAR, IT IS CANADIAN POLICY TO ACCELERATE ENERGY PRODUCTION WITHIN CANADA, AND IN THIS ENDEAVOR TO WELCOME THE CONTINUNING PARTICIPATION OF OTHER COUNTRIES. THE EFFORTS OF THE CANADIAN GOERNMENT TO DEVELOP ENERGY HAVE CONSIDERABLY INCREASED SINCE 1973-74. CANADA IS NOW INVESTING AND WILL CONTINUE TO INVEST AN UNUSUALLY HIGH PROPORTION OF ITS GNP IN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT. THIS POLICY IS EVIDENCED BY SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENTS NOW DEVOTED TO THE ENERGY SECTOR AND PARTICULARLY TO HIGH COST ARCTIC AND TAR-SANDS RESOURCES. SUCH A POLICY, BY REDUCING CANADIAN DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED PETROLEUM, WILL ALSO BE OF BENEFIT TO THE IEA COUNTRIES AS A GROUP. CANADA WELCOMES THE POSSIBLIITIES OFFERED BY THE PROGRAMME TO FURTHER THIS DEVELOPMENT AND RIEMLY DECLARES ITS SUPPORT FOR THE PRNICIPLE OF PRACTICAL COOPERATION ON A PROJECT-BY-PROJECT BASIS.

HOWEVER, CANADA IS UNABLE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER V OF THE PROGRAMME BECAUSE OF A UNIQUE SITUATION WHICH, IN THE VIEW OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT, CALLS FOR A VERY PRUDENT AND CIRCUMSPECT APPROACH IN THIS AREA. UNDER CANADA'S SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE CANADIAN PROVINCES HAVE CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ENERGY RESOURCES WITHIN THEIR BOUNDARIES. THIS PROVINCIAL ROLE HAS THE EFFECT OF RESTRICTING THE CNANAIAN GOVERNMENT'S CAPACITIES WITH RESPECT TO ENERGY CONFIDENTIAL

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INVESTMENT, PRODUCTION AND MARKETING POLICIES. FURTHER, THE FINANCIAL AND TRACE STRUCTURE OF THE CANADINA ENERGY INDUSTRY AND MARKET IS, IN THE VIEW OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT, UNIQUE. THERE IS ALREADY AN EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH PROPORTION OF INVESTMENT BY OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY IN THE CANADIAN ENERGY INDUSTRY, AND CANADA IS ALREADY A LEADING EXPORTER

WITHIN THE IEA OF ITS INDIGENOUS ENERGY PRODUCTION.

CANADA RECOGNIZES, HOWEVER, THAT GROWING INTER-DEPENDENCE AND GROWING EXCHANGES IN WORLD ECONOMIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE ENERGY FIELD, CALL FOR INTERNSIFIED COOPERATION AND CANADIAN POLICIES WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE THIS GROWING INTERDEPENDENCE INTO CNSIDERATON. CANADA WILL PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE REVIEW PROCESSES FORESEEN IN THE LONG-TERM PROGRAMME, INCLUDING CHAPTER V, AND WILL TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF SUCH ASSESSMENTS OF CANADA'S POLICY AS ARE MADE DURING SUCH REVIEWS. YOURS SINCERELY, PETER. END TEXT. FIRESTONE

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